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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Report on Cuban Military Potential  
and Internal Conditions in Cuba by  
30th of November Movement

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

The information below was excerpted from a report of 13 October 1961 from a member of the 30th of November Movement [REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

1. CASTRO's army now has about 200,000 young armed militiamen between 13 and 20 years of age who are indoctrinated and trained under inhuman conditions so that they will be mentally and physically conditioned to face the greatest sacrifices and needs. For example, some of these youths have to stand guard duty for 24- and 28-hour periods, eating and living in a foxhole. Some undergo forced marches and daily manual-of-arms drill. [REDACTED]

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3. There is a total of 600 light and heavy tanks. [REDACTED] militia have Czech- or Soviet-made automatic weapons, such as burp guns, FALs, and nine-mm. pistols for all officers, plus sufficient ammunition. [REDACTED]

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1. CASTRO's army now has about 200,000 young armed militiamen between 13 and 20 years of age who are indoctrinated and trained under inhuman conditions so that they will be mentally and physically conditioned to face the greatest sacrifices and needs. For example, some of these youths have to stand guard duty for 24- and 28-hour periods, eating and living in a foxhole. Some undergo forced marches and daily manual-of-arms drill.<sup>2</sup>
2. The militia army has 150 Soviet MiGs, of two types. Twelve of these have been painted with the American Army (sic) insignia on the tail and wings. Six of these 12 are at the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and are said to be ready to be used for an act of self-aggression to bomb Habana City and other centers in case of any invasion.<sup>3</sup>
3. There is a total of 600 light and heavy tanks. All the militia have Czech- or Soviet-made automatic weapons, such as burp guns, FALs, and nine-mm. pistols for all officers, plus sufficient ammunition.<sup>4</sup>
4. Ten boats, equipped with torpedoes, light artillery, and radar, and capable of doing 60 knots, were received about 1 October. These boats are to patrol the Cuban coasts, and the patrols will be reinforced by the MiGs and helicopters. Their orders are to shoot to kill, even if the target is a small defenseless boat.<sup>5</sup>

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")															

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5. The motorized equipment of the CASTRO army is extraordinarily great in numbers. A conservative estimate places the number of small jeeps, large and small trucks, and semi-trailers used to transport cannons and heavy equipment between 20,000 and 25,000.
6. Light and heavy artillery and four-barrel antiaircraft machine-guns are numerous. There are gun emplacements atop every high place or building in the large cities and in the highest part of the mountains, as well as atop important government buildings in both Habana and the provincial capitals.
7. The total number of militia, including women, fluctuates between 400,000 and 500,000, but many of these are elderly persons, while others do not sympathize with the Communist doctrine but are forced to join in order to keep their jobs.
8. Defense committees have been reinforced and have extended their vigil in all neighborhoods, standing night watches and checking and searching everyone who enters or leaves a house with a package. The entry and exit of unknown persons in a neighborhood are also checked. Most of these vigilantes, including the women, are armed for this duty. At night all embassies, factories, offices, workshops, and clubs are carefully guarded on a permanent basis. This means that there are thousands of militia who perform guard duty from 10 to as much as 16 hours at one time.
9. A new currency change is being prepared which will include fractional coins. There are nickels and pennies in circulation, but the shortage of other coins in Cuba has been a big handicap, especially for small businesses.
10. Persecutions and detentions have been intensified, and another martial law, which will prohibit citizens from being on the streets after nine p.m. is expected at any time; a state of permanent emergency will be decreed. The closing of the few remaining gambling establishments and the absence of U. S., French, or Italian motion pictures makes Habana resemble a dead city at night; only Soviet pictures are exhibited.
11. An estimate places the men working in G-2 in the city of Habana alone at 50,000.<sup>6</sup> Some of them work in labor centers. There is a special corps above G-2 whose function is the surveillance of G-2's work. In addition, there is a secret organization in charge of checking the movements and actions of such prominent members of the government as ministers and field-grade military officers.
12. The CASTRO regime has confidence only in tried and proven Communists. Others in government positions are subjected to the same terror they produce, thus creating a state of collective insecurity.

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13. The few private industries and businesses still remaining, such as restaurants, jewelry, drug, hardware, and grocery stores, are being eliminated by the lack of materials with which to operate.
14. Hunger is felt among the poorer classes and workers. There are long lines in front of grocery, fruit, meat, and poultry stores. A medical certificate is needed to buy oranges. Leading Communists and government members do not suffer any shortages; foreign embassies' shelves are also well stocked.
15. To obtain an exit permit from Cuba one is assigned a turn at the local police station. When one's turn is reached a questionnaire must be submitted, which lists one's possessions such as automobile, refrigerator, and furniture.

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This information is then investigated by G-2, which then forwards the documents to the Technical Investigations Department. This organization fixes the date of departure of each requester. It is estimated that there are now over 30,000 passports, with all the necessary documentation, and another 70,000 Cubans who are getting their documents in order in preparation for leaving the country.

16. To prevent the hi-jacking of Cubana de Aviacion planes, the Cuban Government has sealed off the pilots cabin doors on the Viscounts and DC-3s used on the Isle of Pines, Habana-Camaguey, and Habana-Santiago routes. Of a total of 84 pilots, co-pilots and stewards with Cubana de Aviacion, about 70 are opposed to Communism, and many work in counterrevolutionary organizations. The pilots want to hi-jack the planes, but many still have families in Cuba whom they are trying to take out little by little. In each plane, with the exception of the Britannias flying to Mexico, Madrid, and Prague, there are two militiamen armed with automatic weapons. One remains in the cockpit, and another in the passenger compartment, pointing his gun at the passengers.
17. The Isle of Pines prison is a virtual inferno, with a population of merchants, professionals, technicians, businessmen, workers, farmers, and ordinary workmen. Illnesses such as tuberculosis, infectious asthma, bronchitis, and such infections as typhus and malaria abound. The food is terrible, and rats and roaches are found in the cooking pots. Visits are frequently prohibited, and sometimes two and three months pass without the prisoners being able to see their relatives. Prisoners sleep on the floor pressed against each other because there are four times the number of prisoners that can be accommodated adequately. There are about 3,000 men in the Cabana Fortress, which is large enough for 800. The majority have been there for six or seven months without knowing what the charges against them are. In the Cabana, boys 15 and 16 years of age are held for counterrevolutionary trials. Living conditions at the Cabana are slightly better than at the Isle of Pines. Both the Cabana Fortress and the Isle of Pines prison are completely mined with dynamite. It was placed in underground excavations to be set off whenever necessary by means of special detonators.
18. It is rumored that other large industrial buildings such as the Cuban Electric Company, the Telephone Company, the Instituto Nacional de la Reforma Agraria building, and important factories are also mined with dynamite.
19. Throughout the island G-2 has houses in which many people have been detained; sometimes a person will have to go hungry and sleep on the floor for two or three months without being able to see any relatives. Then, if there is something against the person, or if he is merely under suspicion, he is sent to the Cabana Fortress.
20. Feminine brigades have been created to dedicate themselves to teaching reading and writing, and they include young women of from 12 to 20 years of age. They wear special militia-type uniforms but of a different color. They go to farm zones, announcedly to teach reading and writing, but actually to indoctrinate

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20. Feminine brigades have been created to dedicate themselves to teaching reading and writing, and they include young women of from 12 to 20 years of age. They wear special militia-type uniforms but of a different color. They go to farm zones, announcedly to teach reading and writing, but actually to indoctrinate the farmers. Many of these young girls have returned home pregnant, and government hospitals and other facilities have been used for abortions. Although the government has declared abortions illegal and has prosecuted violators, it has justified its actions in these cases by maintaining that the women must be in condition for their tasks as teachers. This moral deterioration has occurred because girls from good families have come in contact with prostitutes and lesbians; parents have been unable to control their daughters because of fear of being denounced by them.

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21. There are no anesthetics, no antibiotics, no gauze, no cotton, and no bandages, and the supplies of patent medicines have diminished considerably. The shelves of pharmacies, drug stores, and laboratories are almost empty. The exodus of the medical class from Cuba has been great. This is a great problem, particularly for children, since elementary medical supplies are not available. Anti-typhus and anti-tetanus vaccines are also unavailable.
22. The so-called revolutionary trials are conspicuous by the absence of the most elementary norms of guarantee. Tribunals are made up of morally low and incompetent persons, who know little of a judicial trial. Sentences are passed by G-2, and the lawyers who defend persons in the Cabana Fortress trials expose themselves to possible imprisonment and suffer all sorts of insults and criticism from the prosecuting attorney, witnesses of G-2, and members of the tribunals. In addition to those executed after such trials, others are executed without trials or publicity. Raul CASTRO, now active in Santiago de Cuba, is one of the leaders in these activities. One prisoner is a lawyer who was sentenced to 20 years in the Isle of Pines. In 24 days of torture he aged 20 years. Among other tortures he was forced to listen for 20 consecutive hours to a record that played over and over again, "Confess, worm; say what you know." After that, infra-red lamps were concentrated on his eyes for two or three hours while he was interrogated incessantly, without food or water. He was taken out more than ten times, being told that he was to be executed, and he was then fired at with blanks.
23. It is estimated that there are currently in Cuba 25,000 members of the Communist International Brigade. These include pilots, technicians, investigators, and military officer instructors, and they are sponsored with state funds.
24. The professional sector of the 30th of November Movement is the best organized, and the following six organizations are integrated within it: the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo, Movimiento DemocraticoCristiano, the Movimiento Insurreccional Democratico (MID), a faction of the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria, and a part of the Catholic movement. The leader of this sector is "Angel", and one of his assistants is "Juan."8
25. The 30th of November Movement maintains armed rebel fronts in the Escambray, and in Oriente and Pinar del Rio Provinces. Some aid is given the counterrevolutionaries by local farmers. The recent few actions and acts of sabotage in Cuba have been done by the 30th of November Movement. Other such actions are planned, but such items as contact mines, explosives, and arms and ammunition are needed.

Comments

3. The number of MiGs reported here is too high. Cuban MiG aircraft are estimated at an aggregate of 75, of which 28 to 38 are believed to be in flying condition. Reports of the aircraft pointed with the 18-25-51.

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Comments

1. This report is being disseminated in its entirety as an example of the type of intelligence being forwarded by the 30th of November Movement. Many of the figures are exaggerated and the statements very general in nature.
2. The total of 200,000 militiamen of this age group is extremely high.
3. The number of MiGs reported here is too high. Cuban MiG aircraft are estimated at an aggregate of 75, of which 28 to 38 are believed to be in flying condition. Reports of FAR aircraft painted with US insignia have included B-26's, T-33's, and now MiG's. Although there is little doubt that Cuban planes have been painted with US insignia, the type of plane and quantity is questionable. There has been no confirmation that MiG aircraft are based at Ciudad Libertad, to which the source is assumed to be referring in the mention of the six MiG's at the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

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4. It is doubtful that the total number of light and heavy tanks in Cuba would equal half this number.
5. One of Cuba's fastest naval vessels, the R-42, a World War II PT boat, is capable of reaching 40-42 knots. The speed of 60 knots is too high. Cubans refer to "light artillery" in speaking of the 12.7mm and 14.5mm anti-aircraft machine-guns; most Cuban escort patrol (PE), coast guard (GC), and some service vessels (SV), as well as the larger frigates and cruisers, are equipped with radar, although maintenance of this equipment is difficult because of the shortage of parts. There may be some validity to the report that Cuba has received additional patrol craft, since Cuba has been attempting to acquire these vessels in several countries since late 1959. According to [REDACTED] PT-type coastal patrol boats were reported to have arrived in Cuba from Czechoslovakia in March 1961; and pursuit speedboats were reported to have been received in Cuba in early October 1961 from Italy, although there has been no confirmation of either report.

[REDACTED] Comments

6. This figure appears to be exaggerated.
7. Although the report said that six organizations had been integrated, the MID was mentioned twice. It is not clear what error may have been made here.
8. [REDACTED] Comment. Among the propaganda activities of the 30th of November Movement is the publication and distribution within Cuba of El Bancario Libre, the official publication of the Movement for bank employees.

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